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Lab Laurels
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Capt Borchardt named top AFMC Flight Surgeon

by Tiffany Pitts, ASC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio —Dr. (Capt.) Christopher Borchardt, flight surgeon in the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Human Effectiveness Directorate recently won Air Force Materiel Command's Malcolm C. Grow Award.

This award is given annually to the most outstanding flight surgeon in the Air Force.

As AFRL's Dynamic Environment Simulator (DES) facility flight surgeon, Borchardt actively recruited a record number of rated aviators and private pilots as participants in groundbreaking research, according to Dr. William Albery, team leader for the Biodynamics and Acceleration Branch in the Human Effectiveness Directorate.

Borchardt was a volunteer test subject in six studies during the past two years and supervised more than 2000 high G-gravity maneuvers.

"He most recently was a participant in the G-induced loss-of-consciousness (GLOC) research effort we are conducting with the Navy,"Albery said.

This research includes test subjects who volunteer to lose consciousness on the centrifuge as techniques to reduce unconsciousness are employed.

Borchardt also was a test subject in color perception and intraocular (eye) pressure research at high Gs, as well as, incorporated aerospace medicine residents into centrifuge acceleration experiments.

"Dr. Borchardt is committed to aerospace medicine," said Colonel Richard Allnutt, AFRL's aerospace medicine chief. He brings the reality of the operational aviation environment to the laboratory where preventive medicine and operational medicine merge.

He transitioned his experience to the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard (ANG) flying unit where he and the squadron fly F-16s twice a week. Borchardt persuaded the ANG unit to assist in the development of an in-flight spatial disorientation (SD) training. The DES facility recently became a research partner in the Air Force SD program.

"It is encouraging to see that my interests and knowledge are a benefit to the operational Air Force. Focusing research toward operational employment is a key contribution to 'Keep 'em Flying'," Borchardt said. @